Legal status of National Commissions

664. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that National Commissions like the SC, the ST, the Backward Classes Commission, the Minorities Commission and the Women's Commission enjoy different constitutional/legal status presently;

(b) if so, reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government proposes to give equal constitutional/legal status and statutory powers to all these Commissions to enhance their effective functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) and (b) The National Commissions for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes enjoy Constitutional status under Articles 338 and 338 A of the Constitution. The National Commission for Backward Classes, Minorities and Women are Statutory Bodies, set up under their respective Acts. This has been done keeping in view their role and functions towards their target groups.

(c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Reservation in Private Sector

665. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any policy for reservation in private sector;

(b) if so, the steps it would take and procedures it would adopt to implement reservation in private sector, and

(c) whether Government proposes to bring about any legislation on reservation in private sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) to (c) A Group of Ministers was formed in September, 2004, to examine the issue of affirmative action, including reservation in private sector, and to initiate a dialogue with Industry and other associations to fulfill the aspirations of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes youth. The Group met five times and also held consultations with the representatives of Apex Industry Associations. In October, 2006, a Coordination Committee was constituted under the chairmanship of the Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, to carry forward the dialogue with Industry on affirmative action in private sector. The Committee has held discussions with representatives of Apex Industry Chambers/Associations. As decided in the third meeting of the Coordination Committee, held on 11.7.2008, a Group of Officers has been constituted in September, 2008, to study the issue of providing fiscal incentives to industries for setting up manufacturing units in backward districts with large SC/ST population.

NGOs under the Ministry

666. SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state: